

City of Mountain View

Rengstorff Park Master Plan

Project 09-24

Community Forum#1
September 22, 2010

SERVICE + ENVIRONMENT = EXPERIENCE

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Rengstorff Park Master Plan

- ❑ Park opened in 1959, Community Center in 1964, Avenidas, Senior Center and Childcare Center in 2005, 2006, and 2008 respectively. Acquired Rock Church property in 2009.
- ❑ Regional Park (Shoreline), 2 Community Parks (Cuesta and Rengstorff), 13 Neighborhood Parks, 19 Mini-Parks
 - Community Parks serve the entire City
 - They have a diversity of environments and provide quality areas for outdoor recreation
- ❑ A Master Plan is a General Guide for Development of an Area
- ❑ The Rengstorff Park Master Plan will:
 - Create a Long-Term Vision of the Park
 - Keep Rengstorff Park a Safe and Enjoyable Place and Experience
 - Facilitate Informed Decision Making



AGENDA

- ☐ Introduction
 - ☐ Master Plan Process
 - ☐ Design Considerations
 - ☐ Park Overview
 - ☐ Community Input
 - ☐ Next Steps
 - ☐ Feedback
-
- ☐ Meeting Outcomes
 - Review of the Master Plan Process & Participants
 - Collect Community Input on Park Experiences
 - Discuss Park Features
 - Future Opportunities for Community Input



Master Plan Process

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Steps for the Master Plan Process

Consider:

- ☐ ***Park Inventory*** for Existing Park Elements
- ☐ ***Joint-Use Buildings***
- ☐ ***Vehicle and Pedestrian Access***
- ☐ Possibility of Incorporating ***Crisanto Avenue*** into the Park
- ☐ ***Prioritize*** Park Improvements
- ☐ ***Rock Church Property*** at 263 Escuela



Next Steps

- ☐ Discuss Operational Scenarios with Staff
- ☐ City Council Meeting
- ☐ Develop (4) Master Plan Scenarios
- ☐ Community Forum
- ☐ Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- ☐ Final Master Plan



Design Considerations



Park Overview

Park Inventory
Site Analysis

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Park Inventory


- ☐ Well Maintained
- ☐ Functioning as Intended
- ☐ Highly Used Community Asset
- ☐ Many Areas Are Recently Renovated
- ☐ Wide Variety of Recreation Opportunities



Site Analysis – Spaces & Uses



LEGEND

- PARK BOUNDARY
- SPORTS
- GROUP ACTIVITIES
- PLAYGROUNDS
- SKATE PARK
- STAGE & AMPHITHEATRE
- PLAZA
- PARKING/VEHICULAR
- PASSIVE GREEN
- OPEN GREEN
-  PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
-  VEHICULAR ACCESS
-  BUS STOP



PARKS MAKE LIFE BETTER



Site Analysis – Tree Status



LEGEND

- PARK BOUNDARY
- HERITAGE TREES
- TREES IDENTIFIED FOR FURTHER STUDY
- ALL OTHER TREES

NOTE:
COMPLETE TREE ANALYSIS PENDING FINAL
ARBORIST REPORT.



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PARKS MAKE LIFE BETTER



Community Input



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Park Experience Exercise

- ☐ Interview Your Neighbor – *10 minutes*
 - What works well in the park? What doesn't?
 - Describe your ideal experience of the park 10 years from now.
- ☐ Large Group Discussion – *20 minutes*



Park Elements

❑ Existing Elements

- Aquatics Center
- Community Center
- Childcare Center
- Senior Center
- Avenidas Senior Day Health Center
- Teen Center
- Ranger Building
- Tennis Building
- Swimming Pool
- Skate Park
- Barbeque/Picnic Areas
- Tot Lots/Playgrounds
- Exercise Equipment
- Tennis Courts
- Handball Courts
- Pavilion
- Fire Circle
- Off Leash Dog Training Area



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Park Experience Exercise Feedback

Large Group Discussion

- ☐ Users enjoy the walking and bike riding in the park
- ☐ The Senior Center's ping pong and vegetable garden are great features of the park
- ☐ The park is great the way it is. Please keep it the same and don't change it.
- ☐ The exercise area is wonderful
- ☐ The park is a great oasis in the center of the City
- ☐ Pathways should be wider
- ☐ Separation is needed between walking and cycling paths
- ☐ The lighting is good, but needs to be improved in the areas of dense trees. These areas are too dark and unsafe at night.
- ☐ People have noticed police activity once or twice a week in the park.
- ☐ Better security is needed both at night and during the day
- ☐ The neighborhood talks about the park in positive way, which is great
- ☐ A separate dog training area is needed
- ☐ More sports activity areas are need for sports that aren't already represented in the park
- ☐ Users enjoy bringing their grandkids to the park
- ☐ More workout equipment is needed



Park Experience Exercise Feedback

Large Group Discussion

- ☐ The way everything in the park is connected is good and there is not a need to cut through the grass to get places.
- ☐ Way-finding in the park is difficult. Additional signs are needed in the park.
- ☐ Lighting at night is not adequate. The park is unsafe at night and it is very hard to see with the current lighting levels.
- ☐ Rengstorff park requires going a long way into the park to have a sense that you're in the park and out of the city. It would be better to have this sense from the moment you enter the park.
- ☐ The new design of the park should incorporate innovative green design techniques to inspire residents to be more innovative and green in their own homes.
- ☐ More safety is needed for everyone - adults, kids, and seniors
- ☐ Skate Park is old and needs renovation
- ☐ More recycling cans should be added throughout the park
- ☐ Basketball courts and tennis courts should be close together and separate from children's areas, especially small children and babies



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Park Experience Exercise Feedback

Large Group Discussion

- ☐ The left hand turn on to Crisanto Avenue from Rengstorff Avenue is very difficult. Closing the street is a good idea for traffic and pedestrian safety.
- ☐ The sign for the park at the entry off of Rengstorff Avenue is too small. It should be visible from the street.
- ☐ Noise abatement is a concern for large events at the park facilities.
- ☐ There is not enough parking when multiple events occur at the park.
- ☐ Security and safety at the park are a concern.
- ☐ More restrooms are needed, especially near the picnic area
- ☐ The park reflects that it is a living park that is always evolving
- ☐ The children's play area near the skate park is well used and many community members have memories of growing up using the area. Please keep the concrete slide as a feature of the park.
- ☐ The Children's play areas are always filled. Consider the demographics and growth of Mountain View in the future when sizing the play area in the new park design.
- ☐ Love the greenery in the park. It is the best feature in the park.
- ☐ Park is an integral part of family history and memories
- ☐ Users avoid the Crisanto side of the park due to some of the undesirable characters in that area



Park Experience Exercise Feedback

Large Group Discussion

- ☐ Love the greenness of the park. It is refreshing.
- ☐ A wild, less structured area in the park would be nice.
- ☐ Green building practices should be incorporated in the park design, including sustainable agriculture
- ☐ There are concern about new usage of the Rock Church property. Increases in traffic, noise, and light should be considered in the design of the new use and layout.
- ☐ Open fields are used for pick up games during the day. It would be nice to add portable solar powered lights to allow the play to continue into the evening hours.
- ☐ Bay area friendly landscaping should be promoted in the park. This includes smaller lawns/grass to limit water needs, native plants, community gardens, and composting
- ☐ Community garden would be good feature in the park based on all the surrounding apartments without yards
- ☐ A formal sports area for use by local youth sport organizations should be included in the new park layout
- ☐ New site lights are available that reproduce daylight effects. These would allow the park to be used later into the evening
- ☐ Underground parking should be considered to increase the usable open space in the park
- ☐ Concerts in the park would be a great community asset



Park Experience Exercise Feedback

Large Group Discussion

- ☐ The park should include a dog park so that the park can be 'all encompassing' for park users
- ☐ Walks through the park are the park's best feature
- ☐ The Senior Center creates too much noise in the evenings
- ☐ The park has lots of graffiti
- ☐ The park needs better lights, more police presence, and more security
- ☐ There should be less undesirable characters in the park
- ☐ More picnic areas that are smaller in scale would be good. The current picnic and barbeque areas are always filled with large groups. There is a desire for more intimate spaces for smaller groups to picnic in.
- ☐ More lighting and more security are needed
- ☐ The Teen Center is needed for high school students. The existing facility is for middle school students only.
- ☐ Users love the pool, affordable swim lessons, and picnic areas
- ☐ Looks like park was originally designed to have a ball field. It would be ideal to have a ball field at the park for the youth sports organizations to use as their fields are impacted throughout the City and they need additional space to plan.
- ☐ Love the idea of a teen center at the park



Park Experience Exercise Feedback

Large Group Discussion

- ☐ Users enjoy the picnic tables, walking paths and trees
- ☐ A softball field in the park would be nice
- ☐ The barbeque space and paths for bikes are key features to some users
- ☐ Noise abatement within the park can be an issue



Prioritizing the Park Features

Trends in Park Design
Park Features Exercise

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Trends in Park Design

❑ Community Space

- Accessible and Appealing to Wide Range of Users
- Respond to Community Needs and Recreation Trends
- Outdoor Public Art
- Space for Performing Arts
- Home for Community Events



❑ Connectivity

- Integrated with Surrounding Context
- Supportive of Public Transit
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Oriented



Trends in Park Design

☐ Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship

- Demonstration Gardens
- Water Conservation
- On-Site Water Treatment
- Sustainable Materials

☐ Back to Nature

- Native Plant Species
- Natural Planting Areas



Trends in Park Design

❑ Diverse Recreation Opportunities

- Spray Grounds
- Wading Pools
- Rock Climbing
- Skate Parks
- Exercise Stations
- Walking/ Jogging Paths



Park Features Exercise

☐ Image Dot Exercise – *10 minutes*

- Activities
- Features
- Environments
- Character

☐ Small Group Discussion – *20 minutes*

- Image Discussion
- Why does this image represent Rengstorff Park?

☐ Large Group Discussion – *30 minutes*

- Open to all Comments and Suggestions
- Please be Respectful of Other's Opinions



Park Features Exercise Feedback

Large Group Discussion – Group A

- ☐ There is a strong desire to keep things natural
- ☐ A water feature would be nice
- ☐ Public art in the park would give flare and be inviting
- ☐ Walking and jogging are important activities in the park
- ☐ Passive, quiet spaces are important. They provide a much needed contrast to people's day to day lives.
- ☐ A dry creek bed or other natural features would allow kids play in nature.
- ☐ Provide a variety of green spaces
- ☐ Bring farmers market to the park from time to time
- ☐ Existing vegetable garden is for seniors only. There should be a garden that is open to the whole community. This could be an educational tool for children.
- ☐ The character of the new buildings (Senior Center) is nice. Keep this style in any new architecture on the site.
- ☐ Like the idea of joint-use in buildings
- ☐ Mitigate noise impacts to the neighbors
- ☐ There are concerns about using Rock Church for an active function (such as a Teen Center). A passive use of garden may be a better fit for the surrounding neighbors to the property.
- ☐ Participants are split regarding the closure of Crisanto Avenue. Some support closing the street. Others feel it should be left open for through traffic.
- ☐ Access to the park and sense of arrival needs to improve
- ☐ Visibility of a park from the street is important
- ☐ Picnic areas should be more open and visible
- ☐ High density buildings should be considered to increase open space in the park
- ☐ The group see benefits in joint-use facilities



Park Features Exercise Feedback

Large Group Discussion – Group B

- ☐ Park design should be fiscally responsible
- ☐ Park should be useable to many people in many ways
- ☐ Seating could be integrated with the art.
- ☐ A variety of seating types should be provided throughout the park
- ☐ A plaza could be opening and welcoming, a gathering point in the park
- ☐ Green, open space in the park is most important.
 - Buildings are not important and should be limited or eliminated
 - It is important to see the park first, buildings second
- ☐ Historic aspects of the park and community should tie into the new park design
- ☐ Like the existing building architecture at the Senior Center
- ☐ Community gardens would work well with the nearby apartments without yard space
- ☐ Walking and jogging are important in the park and these activities should be maintained in a new park design
- ☐ Public art should be used as a means to bring people into the park
- ☐ Informal sports areas are important. Space should be maintained as always open for community use, not just space for organized sports.
- ☐ The park should be a home to community events that build a sense of community and also build tradition
- ☐ Nature play is important in the park



Park Features Exercise Feedback

Large Group Discussion – Group C

- ☐ Lighting and Security are important, especially around pathways
- ☐ Formal sports areas in the park would be good. There is potential that revenue could be generated through formal sports activities in the park.
- ☐ Areas adjacent to formal sports should be designed for parents and other visitors to events so they can also experience the park while waiting for sporting events to be complete.
- ☐ Seating in the park should be inviting and available in a wide variety of seating types. Seating areas should have lines of sight to activity areas.
- ☐ Sustainability is important. The park design and construction should 'walk the walk' on sustainability as a means to show the community what can be done.
- ☐ A water feature would be nice. It could be a small element within the park.
- ☐ Natural areas would be nice
- ☐ The park design should be organic but organized in a pleasing way
- ☐ The Teen Center is a priority. A productive, space for teens with guided support (computers, work space, etc) is critical for this age group to succeed.
- ☐ The park should represent the diversity of the community



Next Steps and Feedback

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Next Steps

☐ Next Steps

- Discuss Operational Scenarios with Staff
- City Council Meeting
- Develop (4) Master Plan Scenarios
- Community Forum
- Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- Final Master Plan



☐ Other Opportunities for Input

- Future Community Forum
- Future Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- Future City Council Meetings

☐ Contact Information

- Public Works Department
public.works@mountainview.gov
650-903-6311



Feedback

- ☐ Attendees request that information on upcoming/future meetings be sent to them
- ☐ City is planning to post the presentation from tonight's meeting on the City's website following Friday's community forum
- ☐ There is some concern that the attendees at tonight's meeting don't represent the park users.
- ☐ The meeting was well done. It used everyone's time well and got people involved. A lot was accomplished in a short amount of time.
- ☐ The Rock Church property wasn't addressed enough
- ☐ Thank you to all the people who attended.



Thank You!